With the establishment of a county, officers were needed to administer judicial affairs. John W. Witt was elected probate judge by the Territorial Legislature and on February 22, 1862 he conducted the first session of county court. The minutes of the first meeting are as follows:

REPORT OF THE COUNTY COURT OF WASATCH COUNTY IN THE TERRITORY OF UTAH

Special Term

John W. Witt, Presiding

The judge organized the county court by appointing the following officers: Thos. Todd, James Duke and John H. Van Wagoner, selectmen.

The court then proceeded to appoint John Harvey, assessor and collector; Snelling M. Johnson, sheriff; John M. Murdock, treasurer; John Sessions, surveyor; Thos. H. Giles, superintendent of common schools.

The court then divided the county into precincts as follows:

All that portion of country on the east side of Provo River hereby declared precinct No. 1 and all that portion of Provo valley on the west side of Provo River shall be called precinct No. 2. The court then appointed the following precinct officers: Thos. Aarban, justice of the peace for precinct No. 1; Zemira Palmer, constable. Norton Jacobs, justice of the peace for precinct No. 2; Sidney Epperson, constable.

Court adjourned until the first Monday in March next.

Judges fees	$3.00
Selectmen	4.50
Clerks	2.50
	$9.50

(signed)
J. W. WITT
Judge
THOMAS TODD
Selectman
CHAS. SHELTON
Clerk

When the names of county officials were presented to Brigham Young, acting governor of the territory, the name of John Hamilton was substituted for that of Snelling M. Johnson as sheriff, so Mr. Hamilton was actually the first sheriff of the county. The position of selectman was comparable to that of county commissioner today.

John W. Witt's term as probate judge continued until 1888, during which time many important events transpired in the county.

According to John Crook's journal the population in the valley at the time of county organization was over 1,000 persons. The largest

elected by the voters; a county school superintendent, appointed by the court; an assessor and collector, appointed by the court; a recorder, elected by voters; a surveyor, appointed by the court; a prosecuting attorney, elected by the Legislature; a sheriff, elected by the people; a Justice of Peace and coroner, and two constables for each precinct, elected; an estray pound keeper for each precinct, elected; two fence viewers in each precinct, elected; a road commissioner, appointed by the court and precinct road supervisors to be elected in each precinct.

The Legislature elected John W. Witt as probate judge in the county and on February 22, 1862, Judge Witt organized the county organization as follows: Selectmen, Thomas Todd, James Duke and John H. Van Wagoner; assessor and collector, John Harvey; Sheriff, Snelling M. Johnson; treasurer, John M. Murdoch; surveyor, John Sessions and Thomas H. Giles, superintendent of common schools.

The court divided the county into two precincts. All the area east of the Provo River was placed in Precinct No. 1 and Thomas Rasband was appointed Justice of the Peace with Zemira Palmer as constable. Precinct No. 2 was all the area west of the Provo River, and Norton Jacobs was named Justice of the Peace. Sidney Epperson was constable. Clerk of the court was Charles Shelton.

Until the time of statehood the county court headed by the Probate Judge constituted the chief legal power of the county. By act of Congress the Probate Judge was also a key figure in land titles, having power to enter claims in the U.S. Land Office and receive titles in return for those inhabiting the lands. Many land titles today are still traced back to a deed from the old probate judges.

With the passage of time the probate judge and the county court were weakened as state and federal governmental bodies began to centralize their controls. In 1864 the Federal Government restricted the legal power of the Probate Court to the settlement of estates, guardianships and divorce matters.

Additional responsibilities for the Probate or County Court came in 1872 when the selectmen were appointed by the Legislature to erect a county jail and act as directors of the establishment, and in 1878 when the court was appointed as a Board of Equalization to adjust tax assessments and appoint election judges for each precinct.

In 1880, however, provisions of the Edmunds-Tucker Act made the office of Probate Judge an appointment of the President of the United States and transferred all divorce actions from the probate to district court. Election laws were also changed, taking power away from the probate court. The office of county clerk was made an elective position in 1888 and in that same year the precinct and county road offices were consolidated into the office of District Road Supervisor.

The most drastic changes in county government came in 1896 when

Cummings, Barr W. Musser. 1909, E. J. Cummings, Geo. W. Daybell, John W. Moffitt. 1911, E. J. Cummings, George Daybell, John W Moffitt. 1913, H. W. Harvey, E. J. Cummings, John W. Moffitt. 1915, H. W. Harvey, E. J Cummings. John M Ritchie 1917, Wilford Van Wagoner, E J. Cummings, John M. Ritchie. 1919, George A. Huntington, H. W. Harvey, John M. Ritchie. 1921, John Van Wagoner, H. W. Harvey, J. Parley Edwards. 1923, John A. Fortie, John M. Ritchie, J. Parley Edwards. 1925, Andrew Murdock, John M. Ritchie, Clark Bronson. 1927, Andrew Murdock, Paul Hunt, Nels J. Johnson. 1929, Jesse Nelson, Paul Hunt, Sumner Hatch. (1931, Jesse Nelson, Guy E. Coleman, Sumner Hatch. 1933, Jesse Nelson, Guy E. Coleman, Sumner Hatch. 1935, Jesse Nelson, Guy E. Coleman, Joseph T. Murdock. 1937, H. Clay Cummings, Guy E. Coleman, George A. Gardner. 1939, H. Clay Cummings, Guy E. Coleman, Jesse Nelson. 1941, Guy E. Coleman, Jesse Nelson, Harry Morris. 1943, Guy E. Coleman, Jesse Nelson, John Anderson. 1945, Guy E. Coleman, Jesse Nelson, John Anderson. 1947, Guy E. Coleman, Floyd Bonner, John Anderson. 1949, Guy E. Coleman, Clyde Ritchie, Heber R. Winterton. 1951, Guy E. Coleman, Clyde Ritchie, Heber R. Winterton. 1953, Guy E. Coleman, James L. Barnes, Heber R. Winterton. 1955, Guy E. Coleman, William J. Bond, James L. Barnes. 1957, Guy E. Coleman, William J. Bond, Elmo A. Jacobsen, 1959, Guy E. Coleman, William J. Bond, Walter Montgomery.

Treasurers having held office are: John M. Murdock, James Duke, William H. McDonald, Joseph Hatch, Robert Duke, Richard Tilt, William McMillan, LaVina Murdock, Millie Witt, Gladys Briggs, Geneva B. Clift, Mabel Murdock, Mary L. Giles, Grace Crook (Buys) June J. Wheeler.

Assessors: John Harvey, Thomas H. Giles, Charles N. Carroll, John Huber, George Giles, J. W. Witt, Thomas Hicken Jr., P. H. McGuire,, Jacob Probst, J. Parley Edwards, J. T. Pyper, Guy Duke.

Surveyors: John Sessions, William Buys, S. A. Bond, George Barzee, B. S. Kershaw, Edward Buys, Craig Harmiston, A. R. Duke and Harry A. Doppler.

Recorders and Clerks: Charles Shelton, John Gallagher, T. H. Giles, Joseph A. Murdock, John T. Giles, C. J. Wahlquist, James R. McNaughtan, Thomas S. Watson, James C. Jensen, Charles E. Bronson, Alfred Sharp, Wayne C. Whiting.

Attorneys: Silas Smith, R. Camp, William Buys, M. J. Shelton, W. S. Willes, C. J. Wahlquist, L. C. Montomery, Edwin D. Hatch, George B. Stanley, Glen S. Hatch, Glen M. Hatch, J. Harold Call, Richard L. Maxfield.

Sheriffs: Snelling A. Johnson, John Hamilton, Richard Jones, John Clyde, J. H. Fraughton, James S. Murdock, W. S. Willis, Robert Clyde, William Bonner, J. O. Wall, Virgil Fraughton, George Durnell, William Murray, Charles McPhie, Eugene D. Payne, Floyd L. Witt.

ings and ward visits, but they worked together with the wards in gathering, cleaning, mending and boxing clothing for shipment to needy Saints in Europe or other areas.

Sustained on August 17, 1947, was Dove Reese McAffee. She selected as her counselors Luella B. Fitzgerald and Thora M. Schearer, with LaVada Thorn Harrison and Golda Locks Lee as secretaries. This group served together until February 22, 1953, when Relva Ritchie Price was sustained as president, with Faye Coleman McNaughton and Esther Smart as counselors and Mary Bethers, secretary. Other counselors to Sister Price included Mabel Lindsay Anderson and Fern Young. Secretaries also were Marie Popp Carlile and Maurine Henline Carlson.

Faye Coleman McNaughton became the next president, sustained with her counselors Fern Young and Theola Swain on February 19, 1956. Maurine Henline Carlson served as secretary and then later became a counselor and Ella Yeates was called as secretary.

The present president, Maxine Clyde Carlile, was sustained August 31, 1958. Chosen as her counselors were Darlene Probst Shelton of Midway and Joyce Miller Edwards of Charleston. Secretary is Ella Yeates.

In a new Primary program announced in February, 1961, members of the stake Primary board were released to work in their wards and only a key group were retained on a stake level. Serving on the board are Sister Shelton and Lucy Brandt, counselors, Ella Yeates, secretary, Merle Rasband, music director and LaDene Webb, Scout director.

Space in this history has not permitted full mention of all who have served on the stake boards of the auxiliary organizations, but without their faithful and continued services to the programs of the Church the work in Wasatch Stake most certainly would not have progressed in the manner it has.

Missionary work has been another vital Church activity through the years in Wasatch Stake. The first missionary from the valley was called in 1865. He was Charles Shelton and served in New Brunswick, Canada. He left a wife and children in the valley and labored in the field four years. Thomas Hicken Sr. served on several short missions to Morgan and Kamas Counties in the 1860's.

Few other early missionaries were called from the community until President Brigham Young called several families to go on colonizing missions to help establish new areas. Joseph S. Murdock, then bishop of Heber, was called as a colonizer and to raise cotton in Southern Utah. Others who responded to calls were Addison Hicken, his wife and small daughter Rhoda; John H. Murdock, George Dablin and family of Wallsburg and Moroni Blood and his family of Midway. Many later returned to their homes in the valley, but had to start all over again as they had used up all their resources.

By the 1880's and 1890's missionary calls came more frequently. The calls usually came to married men, often those with large families and

forced many from their homes, put many hundreds of acres of choice lands under water and brought decline to the community.

For some years the industrial leaders of Utah and the nation had realized the value of a reservoir along Provo River. The growth of Utah's major industrial centers, including Salt Lake City and Provo, created a vast need for water storage and new hydro-electric projects.

Thus, in 1938 work began on a reservoir in the lower part of Wasatch County, known as the Deer Creek project. Three years were required to complete the dam, which held back the water that began to inundate Charleston.

Even though Charleston's landscape has changed considerably over the years, the people have not changed. As the waters began to rise behind the dam, many were forced to move their homes to other areas. However, those who remained have held fast to the fundamental virtues of courage and integrity that have played so great a part in shaping the lives of men.

As far as can be determined, the first two white men to camp in the area of Charleston were Charles Shelton and his brother-in-law, Alex Wilkins. They were surveyors from Provo, and came into the valley to lay out some of the property.

The first settlers to take up land claims in Charleston were George Noakes, William Manning and Mr. Manning's son, Freeman, who were all from Provo. They came in the spring of 1859 and put in a limited crop of grain, but lost the entire crop through frost. William Manning built a log house and corral on his land, which was Charleston's first permanent building. During the winter of 1859-60, Mr. Manning wintered some stock on his ranch.

Others were soon attracted to the Charleston area and began to take up land for homes and farms. Ephraim K. Hanks, an able assistant to President Brigham Young in the pioneer trek of 1847 brought his family to Charleston to settle. Mr. Hanks, noted as a scout and peace-maker among the Indians, was also instrumental in saving the Martin Handcart Company from starvation in the snows of Wyoming.

Early in 1860 John S. McAffee and his family arrived from Scotland and began settling some of the lands near Mr. Hanks. Others who claimed farm land in the Charleston area were John Ritchie, Nymphas C. Murdock, William Wright, Lewis Mecham, Enoch Richins, George W. Brown, John Brown and William Bagley.

The government opened up Charleston to homesteading in 1862 and the records show that John Eldrige was one of the first to receive homestead rights. He died before his homesteading time was completed, but his wife, Sina Eldrige completed the homestead. Others who took out homestead rights in Charleston included David Walker, George Noakes, George T. Giles, Joseph E. Taylor, Stanley Davis, Joseph Bagley, Finity Daybell, Emmanuel Richman, George Simmons, Esther Davies, Joseph Nelson, Isaac Brown, William Winterton, David Young, Eli